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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 306033
ORIGIN EA-12

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66011
DRAFTED BY:EA/J:HERBERT COCHRAN
APPROVED BY:EA/J:NICHOLAS PLATT
----------000140 230749Z /23
R 230339Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 306033

PARIS USEEC ALSO FOR OECD GENEVA ALSO FOR USMTN

FOL TOKYO 19460 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BRUSSELS GENEVA
DEC 20, 1977 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 19460

USEEC

GENEVA ALSO FOR USMTN

DEPT PASS ALL EC CAPITALS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, ETRD, JA
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SUBJECT: U.S.-JAPAN ECONOMIC TALKS

REFS: A) LONDON 20535; B) BRUSSELS 18735 (NOTAL); C) TOKYO 19343

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY WELCOMES EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN IN
EUROPE ABOUT DANGERS OF "GANGING UP" IN JAPAN IN CURRENT
TRADE DISPUTE. HOPE U.S. AND EC STILL SHARE INFORMATION

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AND KEEP THEIR REPRESENTATIONS MULTILATERAL IN CONTEXT. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY TOKYO BELIEVES IT IS IMPORTANT TO PAY HEED TO CAUTIONS EXPRESSED IN LONDON AND BRUSSELS ABOUT DANGERS OF U.S. AND EC APPEARING TO "GANG UP" ON JAPANESE IN CURRENT TRADE DISPUTE.

3. WE HAVE BEEN CAREFUL TO STRESS HERE, PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, WITH JAPANESE AND OTHERS, THAT U.S. APPROACH IS MULTILATERAL IN SCOPE. WHILE WE NOTE POLITICAL PROBLEM OF PROTECTIONISM ARISING IN U.S. CONGRESS, WE ALWAYS GO ON TO POINT OUT SOLUTIONS WE HAVE SUGGESTED WOULD OFTEN BENEFIT REST OF WORLD MORE THAN U.S.

4. JAPANESE ARE, OF COURSE, CHRONICALLY SENSITIVE TO FOREIGN CRITICISM. THERE IS PERSISTENT FEELING HERE THAT JAPAN OFTEN GETS BLAMED FOR MISDEEDS OF OTHERS. INFLAMMATORY, RACIST CARTOONS AND POSTERS ABOUT JAPANESE STEEL IMPORTS ARE PARTICULARLY RANKLING WHEN EUROPE IS PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF RECENT STEEL DUMPING.

5. IN OUR VIEW, WE ARE LIKELY TO GET MORE FOR OURSELVES AND INDEED FOR OECD AND REST OF WORLD CONFIDENTIAL

IF WE DO NOT SEEM TO "GANG UP" IN PUSHING JAPAN INTO AN ISOLATED CORNER REMINISCENT OF EARLIER ERAS.

6. THAT BEING SAID, WE ARE NOT SURE WHAT POSSI-BILITIES THERE ARE FOR U.S. AND EC ACTING "IN PARALLEL." IN OUR VIEW, IT WAS WISE TO SHARE WITH EC OUR HANDLING OF USHIBA VISIT. BUT WE DO NOT RECALL THAT EC HAS BEEN AS FORTHCOMING ABOUT THEIR DISCUSSION WITH JAPANESE. CERTAINLY HERE IN TOKYO OUR COLLEAGUES MAKE NO BONES ABOUT BILATERAL NATURE OF THEIR REPRESENTATIONS.

7. WE ALSO BELIEVE GOJ WAS WELL ADVISED TO SEND USHIBA TO BRUSSELS AND INDEED WOULD HAVE BEEN WISER TO HAVE THOUGHT OF IT IN ADVANCE OF PRESSURE FROM EC.

8. BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR UEEC BRUSSELS TO REPEAT ITS 18735 TO LONDON AND OTHER EC CAPITALS. PLIMSOLL'S VIEWS ARE DESERVEDLY HIGHLY REGARDED, ESPECIALLY SINCE AUSTRALIAN POLICY TOWARD JAPANESE IS USUALLY QUITE BLATANT AND TOUGH.

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9. IN SUMMARY IT LOOKS TO US AS IF OUR "PARRALLELISM"
WITH EC IS AT ABOUT THE RIGHT LEVEL. SINCE U.S. IS
JAPAN'S LARGEST TRADE AND SECURITY PARTNER, BOTH
JAPAN AND EC SHOULD EXPECT TO SEE US IN THE LEAD.
OUR REQUESTS HAVE BEEN GLOBAL IN APPLICATION, BOTH
IN FACT AND IN PRESENTATION, SO WE NEED NOT APOLO-
GIZE TO ANYONE FOR WHAT WE HAVE DONE. MANSFIELD UNQUOTE
VANCE

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Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, TRADE, NEGOTIATIONS
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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